

BAKERSFIELD, CA- Today, Congressman Jim Costa (D-Bakersfield) announced that a total of \$245,810 has been awarded to the Kern County District Attorney's Office to reduce forensic DNA sample turnaround time and reduce DNA forensic casework backlogs. Funding was released by the United States Department of Justice through the Forensic DNA Backlog Reduction Program.

"This is good news for Kern County," Costa said. "DNA technology is a vital tool for our prosecutors and law enforcement to prove the innocence or guilt of a suspect. These funds will be used wisely in Kern County to help turn these cases around quickly."

The objective of this program is to assist eligible state and units of local government to reduce forensic DNA sample turnaround time and reduce DNA forensic casework backlogs. These improvements are critical to preventing future DNA backlogs and to helping the criminal justice system use the full potential of DNA technology.

Eligible states and units of local government may request funds to increase the capacity of their existing crime laboratories that conduct DNA analysis in order to analyze DNA samples more efficiently and cost effectively.